

# Casemate

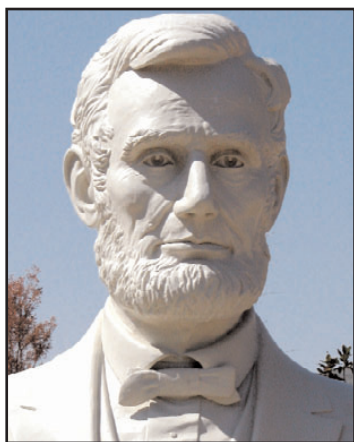


Vol. 28, No. 4

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February 17, 2006

## What's Inside



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## Community Notice

### Letter stresses holiday safety

The Garrison Commander issued a recent memo stressing safety over the extended Presidents Day weekend. It encourages community members to expect adverse weather conditions when travelling out of state. Leave early and increase following distances, it advised. It also stressed the importance of wearing seat belts. All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat.

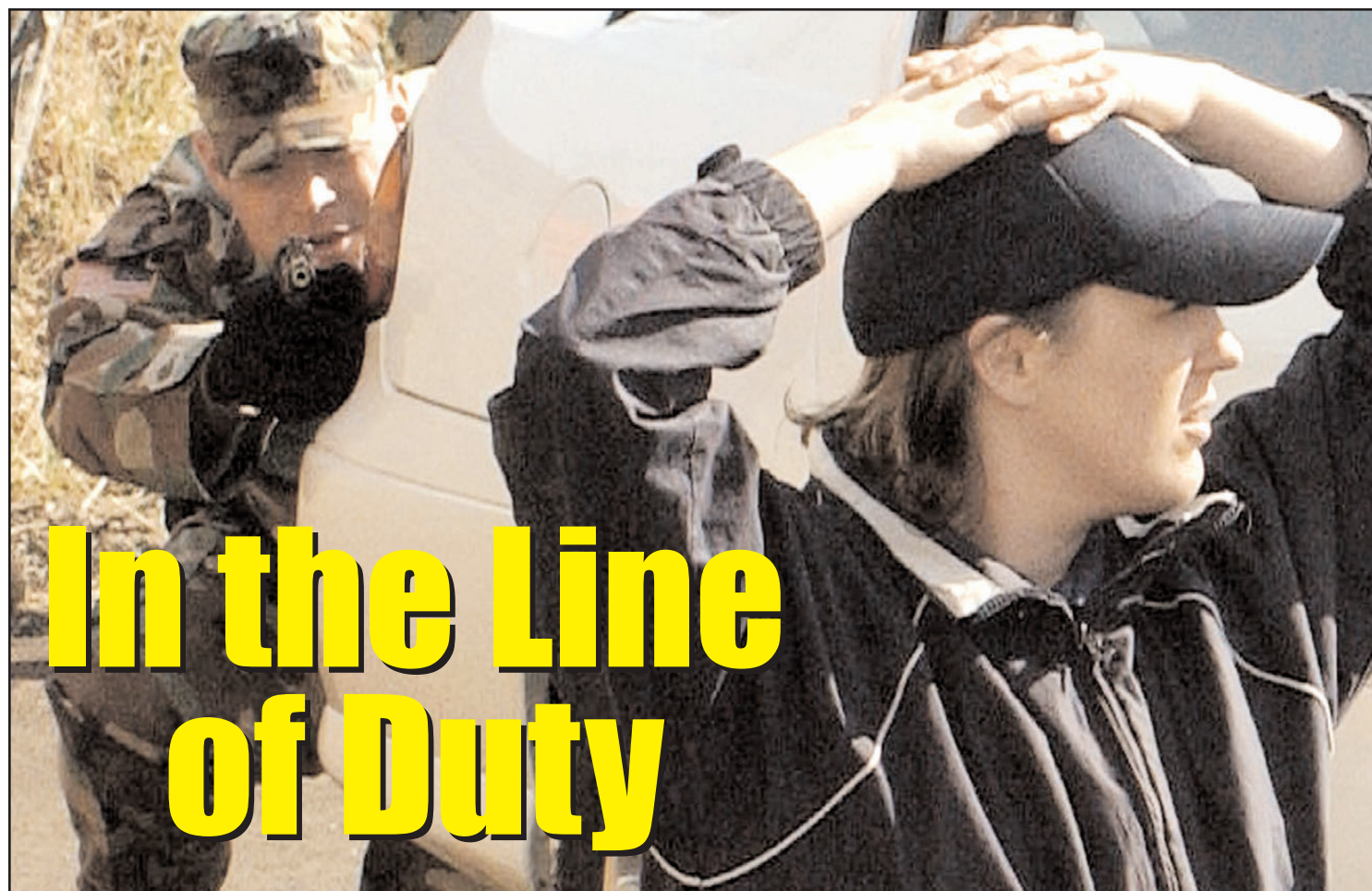


Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

*Spc. James Pruitt of the 233rd Military Police Detachment holds his weapon on a Hampton Police Department Senior Police Officer Kim Folker. Folker posed as a suspect during a simulated felony traffic stop at the Police Department's shooting range on Feb. 10. For more photos, see Page 6.*

## State police debunk accident myths

**BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Fender-benders, rear-enders and rollovers ... vehicle crashes happen about every 3.42 minutes on the Commonwealth's roadways, according to recent statistics.

Speeds are up, patience is down and you're far more likely to find yourself in a serious accident along the Tidewater area's back roads than on its fast-moving, overcrowded highways, according to Sgt. D.S. Carr, Public Information Officer for the Virginia State Police.

During a recent interview at State Police Headquarters in Chesapeake, Carr debunked one of the most popular myths about interstate driving and discussed ways to promote traffic safety in the Hampton Roads area.

"Everybody wants to look at 64, 264, 464, 564 and 664 – all the 64s around here," Carr said. "But I looked at the number of fatal (crashes) we

had in this division last year. There were (approximately) 16 in the urban areas: Norfolk, five; Portsmouth, five; Virginia Beach, three or four; Hampton, two; and Newport News maybe had a couple. Then, when we look at the outlying areas like the Eastern Shore, they had 14 just in Northampton and Accomack Counties. Brunswick and Greensville Counties, Williamsburg, Yorktown, and James City County also have a lot of wrecks," Carr said.

*"I would be hesitant to say you are safer on non-interstate roads because that may not be true."*

**Sgt. D.S. Carr**  
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

The area serviced by the Chesapeake office encompasses the Eastern Shore, all of Hampton Roads – South Hampton, Isle of Wight, Brunswick and Greensville Counties up to I-85; from the North Carolina line up to Middlesex, Matthews, Gloucester, York, James City, Sussex and Surry Counties. During 2005, the division's 243 troopers, 51 civilians and 46 state Bureau of Criminal Investigation special agents in charge handled over 235,000 incidences ranging from disabled cars to lethal crashes.

Carr said interstate incidents tend to grab attention because they often result in major traffic tie-ups, especially during the rush hour, and there are far more passers-by who witness the incident.

"I would be hesitant to say you are safer on non-interstate roads because that may not be true," he noted. "I think you may have more of a chance

**See ACCIDENT, Page 3**

For more information about free tax preparation for service members, retirees and families, contact the Fort Monroe Tax Center at 788-3616/3593



*"There's something better ahead if we can just work together through these tough times."*

## A rare combination of faith, hope, love

**H**appy President's Day! I hope you have an enjoyable, refreshing and safe weekend.

Have you ever wondered why anyone would want to be the President? Everyone who holds that office ages 20 years during a four-year term! No one seems to leave that office looking as good as he did going in.

We think it's more about power and prestige, but the truth is that the President of the United States is a public servant in the best sense of that term.

They actively seek the office, risking great emotional pain and often at great personal expense. They know how vulnerable they will be to public opinion. The White House must feel like a gilded cage sometimes.

But they ask us to elect them to that position so

### Chaplain's Corner



**Maj. Jerald Jacobs**  
Post Chaplain's Office

they can work toward their vision for this great nation. When they get there, they have to work with (or maybe even fight) the Congress for every gain they make. I'm sure no President ever looked back at the end of four or eight years and

thought, "I've accomplished every goal I had going into my presidency!"

Why do they set themselves up for so much criticism and failure; or, at best, so much frustration and conflict?

I think it's because they have a rare combination of hope, strength, faith, love and desire to make a difference on a grand scale.

Hmmm... faith, hope and love. Sound familiar, don't they? Are these not the powers that animate us?

Are these not the motivators for all that is pure and right and good? These are the nutrients in the soil of our hearts that produce good fruit in our lives.

Faith says, "There's something better ahead if we can just work together through these tough times."

Hope clings to a vision of a better day and lives as if that day were already here.

Love refuses to believe that someone is evil or less than human just because they're different or disagree with us. Together they motivate us to keep looking for a win-win solution. Together they draw (or drag) us into a better world.

They are what make us do the hard work of training, maintaining and preparing for war to enable the growth of freedom and democracy in our increasingly enslaved world.

It is faith, hope and love that make Soldiers go out into dangerous places where they know they are targets of opportunity for terrorists and insurgents.

It is faith, hope and love that make members of our Armed Forces such marvelous ambassadors of freedom as they assist the Iraqis and Afghanis.

Faith, hope and love are our spiritual weapons. Sol-

diers must have well-maintained weapons and weapon systems and must remain qualified on them to be effective in combat. In much the same way, Soldiers and DA employees must have well-maintained faith, hope and love, and use them constantly if we are to be successful and victorious in all our lives' battles.

Strengthen your faith in God, your fellow-man and in yourself. Start dreaming again those old dreams you let die years ago.

Open your heart to God's love – directly to you and through others. Re-qualify on these systems. Keep them maintained. That's spiritual fitness. That will keep you serving honorably and well.

If you need a TM or FM on these systems, your Chaplains can help you find exactly the right one.

God bless you.

### Celebrating African-American History Month

## Medal of Honor — there from the start

**T**he Medal of Honor is perhaps the greatest recognition of military bravery a service member can receive. Oftentimes, the ultimate price for such bravery is the loss of one's life.

Most of us would instantly recognize famous Medal of Honor recipients like Audie Murphy, Alvin York and Jimmie Doolittle, but there are also many African American heroes who have taken their place on the honor rolls for gallantry ever since the medal was created during Abraham Lincoln's presidency.

Robert Blake was the first African-American to receive the medal. An escaped Virginia slave, he was contraband of the Civil War and signed up to serve

### Community Spotlight

**Lt. Col. Gus Schalkham**  
Director, JTF-CS Public Affairs

in the Navy. An excerpt of his MOH citation reads, "On board the U.S. Steam Gunboat Marblehead ... in an engagement with the enemy on John's Island ... Blake, an escaped slave, carried out his duties bravely throughout the engagement, which resulted in the enemy's abandonment of positions, leaving a caisson and one gun behind."

One of the most famous images of a Medal of Honor recipient from any war came to us through the movie "Glory." The famed 54th Massachusetts all-black regiment is shown at

the end of the movie trying to defeat Confederate forces at Fort Wagner, S.C.

Sgt. William Harvey Carney received the Medal of Honor for his actions during this battle. His citation reads, "When the troops fell back, he brought off the flag under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded." Academy Award winner Denzel Washington recreated that scene in the movie. Carney, who lived out his later years in Boston, was born in Norfolk, Va.

Taming the "Wild West" fell to the frontier soldier where many African-Americans served in segregated companies such as the 9th and 10th Cavalry. Sgt. George Jordan was a leader of Detachment K, 9th U.S. Cavalry.

During the time after the defeat of George Armstrong Custer at the Little Big Horn, Native American Indians were pursued relentlessly until they were all forced onto reservations.

In 1880, Chief Victorio and 100 Apaches fled the Fort Stanton reservation in New Mexico. Jordan's detachment of 25 men came to the aid of a civilian settlement to repel Victorio further south into Mexico.

His MOH citation reads, "While commanding a detachment of 25 men at Fort Tularosa, N. Mex., (Jordan) repulsed a force of more than 100 Indians. At Carrizo Canyon, New Mexico, while commanding the right of a detachment of 19 men on 12 August 1881, he stubbornly held his ground in an extremely exposed

position and gallantly forced back a much superior number of the enemy, preventing them from surrounding the command."

In 1897, Jordan retired from the Army at the age of 48. He had served his country for 30 years, and he went to live at the U.S. Soldier's Home in Washington, D.C., where he received monthly retirement pay in the amount of \$12.

Cpl. Freddie Stowers is the only African-American to receive the Medal of Honor from World War I. A native of South Carolina, he made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 28, 1918, while serving as a squad leader in France.

The enemy had come out of their trenches during the fighting and had put up

**See MEDAL, Page 7**

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## Casemate

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## Post prayer breakfast features Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains

Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, will be the featured speaker for Fort Monroe's National Prayer Breakfast observance starting at 6:30 a.m., Thursday, at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

Tickets for the observance are available now from senior NCOs and any chaplain on post. The event is free to E-5s and below, but a ticket is still required. All other ranks and civilians who wish to attend are asked to donate \$5. The breakfast is open to all.

The two-hour observance will also include opening remarks by Gen. William S. Wallace, TRADOC Commanding General and music by an ensemble from The U.S. Continental Army Band.

A native of Rome, Ga., Carver moved into his current position in September. His previous assignments include stints as the Assistant Training and Doctrine Command Chaplain at Fort Monroe and the CJTF-7 Chaplain for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Baghdad.

Carver first joined the service in June 1973, and was appointed to the Field Artillery Branch. After six years of active duty, he resigned his commission to enter the ministry. He was subsequently commissioned as an Army chaplain in June 1984.

In 1995, he received the Wither-spoon Chaplain's Award from the Layman's National Bible Association for the promotion of Bible reading and study among military families.



### Warm Welcome

**Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis King, left, is welcomed to Monroe by Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Commander of U.S. Army Accessions Command, during a reception at the general's quarters Monday. King brings a wealth of experience to Accessions Command. He will reach his 30th year of service in July. His previous assignments include drill sergeant duty and Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, S.C.**

## ACCIDENT Continued from Page 1

of having a wreck on the interstate, but everybody is going in the same direction (lessening the chance of a head-on collision), there are not as many objects to hit – like trees – and usually there are no embankments to go down (causing many vehicles to overturn)."

There are exceptions of course, like rural portions of Routes 58 and 64. Still, when it comes to urban interstate, "if you can stay between the jersey wall and guard rail you're okay," Carr said.

Rural roads demand more attention due to changing speed limits, more curves and vehicles passing through intersections. Carr recounted one of his cases in which a man was reading a map while driving about 75 miles per hour along Route 58 – which meanders through a few small towns and along some rural terrain.

To make the situation even worse, neither he nor his wife – who was reading a book in the back seat – was wearing a seatbelt, Carr explained. Witnesses said he apparently did not see a gas truck turning into someone's driveway because his brake lights never came on. He hit the truck and his airbag deployed. But, since he wasn't wearing the seatbelt, he was propelled up over the airbag and hit the ceiling of the car. The impact broke his neck, killing him. His wife also was killed when she was thrown from her seat and collided with the back of his.

"In rural areas, people are on bicycles, walking their dog or jogging. So, when you sit down and think what roads are dangerous, I'd say all of them are. But the chances of survival are probably better on the interstate than in the rural areas because of the nature of the travel," Carr said.

There are roads that can be singled out as "more deadly than others," due to factors like a higher volume of traffic and the increased number of accidents that resulted in one or more fatalities. Route 460 is a good example. Carr described it as a "non-interstate, non-controlled access road." A controlled access road has a ramp system that allows vehicles to ease on at specific locations.

"People are meeting each other this far apart going the opposite way," he said while holding up his hands measuring about two feet apart. "Route 460, is an undivided four lane (highway) – you're meeting a tractor trailer; he's not that far from you; you're just two feet from death. All it would take is a hiccup for him to come over (the line) or you do something and you go over

and you've pretty much had it."

Carr said an inordinate number of military members' lives are lost in the Hampton Roads area each year. He counted the bases throughout the state and concluded that the military population here is not larger than, say, northern Virginia, but the problems seem to be concentrated in this area. Perhaps it is due to unfamiliarity with the roads as a result of the transient nature of military life. Or, maybe, it's an attitude.

"People just need to be (well acquainted) with their roads and not drive aggressively," Carr said.

Carr often travels to the various area bases to give safety talks. He said: "A lot of (service members) seem to feel like, 'I'm invincible. I made it through combat and made it back home and nothing will happen to me.' We lost more military people in traffic crashes after they got back from (Desert Storm/Desert Shield) than we lost in actual combat," Carr said.

Virginia State Police statistics show the most dangerous drivers are males, ages 21 to 25. Of 624 people killed on Virginia's highways in 2004, 10 percent were in this age group. This doesn't seem like a lot until one considers that people were divided into 24 groups, according to the state police Web site: [www.vsp.virginia.gov](http://www.vsp.virginia.gov).

"Most of our problems are younger drivers who we see getting hurt and hurting others. We do lose older service members, but they are usually hit by someone else who is doing something stupid," the 26-year veteran said.

"One of the stupidest things people do is run from the police, because they could wreck or hurt somebody else. On Indian River Road (Norfolk/Virginia Beach), one young man tried to outrun the police. He was doing one of the young-guy things by having his seat laid back, which actually saved his life because he ran under a piece of equipment that took the top of his car off. Then he got out and ran. You know how they wear their pants real baggy ... well, he tripped because his pants fell down and the trooper caught him. It's the kind of thing you can laugh about, because he didn't get hurt and didn't kill anybody," Carr said.

Carr went on to tell of another case he considered foolhardy.

"One time when I was in an unmarked jeep, I had a guy pass me in a Mustang convertible coming across the James River Bridge from Newport News to Isle of Wight. He increased his

speed to 105 miles an hour. When I stopped him, I couldn't believe he had taken that chance with his child in the car and neither one had on a seatbelt. He had just gotten the classic Mustang and he wanted to impress his son. The judge put him in jail. If he had had a wreck going across the draw span that fast, he could have ended up in the water. You know you do this," he said making wavy motions with his hand showing how cars sway on bridge grids.

With warmer weather just around the corner, Carr said he and his fellow officers also anticipate the usual increase in motorcycle crashes involving young military personnel. Motorcycles are attractive because they are good on gas and they go fast, he said. Unfortunately, drivers often are not experienced enough to cope with local conditions. "They get out in all this traffic ... they don't have a very good survival rate," he said.

Regardless of the type of vehicle driven, Carr said survival is often a simple matter of common sense.

"I think one of the things people don't do is put their attention on their responsibility when they are behind the wheel. When they are driving that car, they should give all their attention to watching the mirrors and using their signals. That's why they put them there; to use.

"And give all your attention to your driving – not on junior in the back seat, not tuning the radio, not putting CDs in, not singing and not dancing. I think the golden rule should be like the golden rule in life: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Drive around others as you would want to be driven around. You don't want to be cut off, so don't cut people off. You don't want to be followed too closely, so don't follow too close," Carr said.

If more drivers got into the habit of obeying the speed limit, it would also save many lives, he continued.

"When we had the energy crisis in the '70s, we decreased the speed limits from 75 to 55. Well, guess what else dropped? Fatalities.

"Your reaction time is decreased so much by speeding. (It's) just simple mathematics. (Furthermore,) if you're taking a trip and you drive 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, you really don't save a whole lot of time, especially on short commutes to and from work. If you run 10 miles per hour over the speed limit, you might save a minute," he said. "So, what have you really accomplished? Is it worth the risk?"



# Observance features ‘home-grown’ talent

The founder of a local drill team for children that is taking part in Wednesday’s African-American History Month observance at the post theater has a special bond with Fort Monroe ... he was born here.

Mark Cooper is the creative and inspirational leader of the nationally acclaimed “Marching Elites” drill team, an organization composed of elementary- and middle-school-aged children from the City of Hampton.

Born on Fort Monroe in 1962, Cooper grew up in the area. He graduated from Hampton High School in 1981 and continued his education at Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton University, and the Virginia School for the

Deaf and Blind, where he learned sign language.

As the current president and drill master for the “Elites,” Cooper, along with a cadre of dedicated volunteers, strive to heighten and nurture the self-esteem and self-discipline of area youths, to include those with disabilities. Competing in local and national venues, the 250-member drill team captured the First Place, Exhibition Drill, title during the 2002 National JROTC championships in Daytona Beach, Fla.

The team has also performed at professional basketball halftime shows, Disney World’s Epcot Center and Magic Kingdom in Orlando,

Fla., and the U.S. Capital in Washington, D.C.

The drill team will offer a taste of their fancy footwork during the installation’s 90-minute observance, which begins at 1:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Charles C. Allen, Newport News’ Vice Mayor since 1996 and a city council member since 1992, will be the featured speaker at the observance. Allen will speak on “Promoting African-American Community Enrichment.”

In addition to his city duties, Allen works as an urban planning consultant for the Livas Group in Norfolk. He holds a master’s degree in urban planning from Columbia

University, School of Architecture, New York, and a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Hampton University.

In 2004 Allen was named to the College of Fellows for the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP), the highest honor awarded by this professional organization.

Entertainment for Wednesday’s program will also include vocalist Martin Pridgen, a Virginia Beach resident.

The post theater, Building 42, is located on Tidball Road. Tickets are not required for the event. A sign language interpreter will be on site.

For more information, call 788-3295.

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# TRADOC forum focuses on retention goals

BY KRISTEN ELLIS  
TRADOC NEWS SERVICE

HAMPTON, Va. – Twenty-four senior NCOs from TRADOC training centers and schools across the nation met here last week to discuss the command’s current retention efforts and come up with future strategies that will hopefully maintain the Army’s success in keeping Soldiers in uniform.

The bi-annual forum, hosted by the TRADOC Command Career Counselor’s Office, promotes open dialogue among senior retention NCOs from more than a dozen separate installations sprinkled throughout the U.S., from Virginia to Arizona. It’s an opportunity for the NCOs to address issues that effect retention efforts such as modularity and a shortage in assets.

The retention mission for Fiscal Year 2006 is 64,200, the largest since 2000. That number consists of Soldiers due to leave the Army between 2006 and 2008. As of Feb. 1, the Army has reached 39 percent of this year’s mission. In 2005, reenlistment rates were the highest they have been in five years with more than 69,500 Soldiers deciding to continue their military service.

The mission is to convince 20,532 or 42 percent of the FY 06 ETS population not to leave military service, which is a 13 percent increase from FY 05.

Sgt. Maj. Scott Kuhar, the Army’s senior reenlistment sergeant, was the featured speaker at the forum. He told the crowd about someone who pointed out to him that he never had an ETS mission of more than 16,000.

“Well, have you ever asked us to?” he posed. “If you need a hill taken, tell me (which one). We

have plenty of time left to reach mission. There are naysayers who will tell you, ‘You don’t have the personnel left, you’re not going to make it.’ If we get to September and we still have to enlist 2,000 FY 06 Soldiers to make my 20,000 mission and I only have 1,000 Soldiers left, I might give you a ‘maybe’.

“It’s way too early in the year. It’s like telling me now I have a PT test this summer and you say I’m not going to make it. C’mon, I have plenty of time to get in shape. We can make this mission as long as we work as a team.”

Kuhar explained that by putting the focus on developing the sense of duty, honor, and camaraderie, the Army retains Soldiers who believe they are part of something bigger.

“We need to get used to selling the Army without selling dollars. The reason Soldiers want to reenlist and stay with their unit is leadership, not money. We see very high rates of reenlistment in deployed units,” Kuhar said. “I had great leaders, mentors and coaches who just made me feel like I belonged.”

Building that sense of pride during the Soldier’s career helps them understand the benefits of being a Soldier go beyond any dollar amount.

“The bonuses are an incentive, not an entitlement. They are for the people who may not have reenlisted otherwise,” Kuhar pointed out.

Sgt. Maj. Khadijah H. Sellers, TRADOC Command Career Counselor, added that the importance of command involvement plays a huge role in retention. “Leadership is key. Good leaders retain quality Soldiers.”

The role of Career Counselors is invaluable when it comes to helping the Army reach their end strength. The 95 TRADOC Career Coun-

selors act as subject-matter experts who help Soldiers continue their commitment to service.

“Career Counselors are as important as blood is to your body. You may not see it but if you take it away, it won’t function properly.” Sellers added, “If we don’t retain, we have to spend money to recruit and replace.”

Sellers explained the importance of the bi-annual conference.

“It is cross-pollination; it’s a forum for everyone to spread good ideas and network.” She added: “The return on investment is exponential. You see it in the [retention] numbers.”

Kuhar appreciated the feedback he got from the crowd.

“You all motivate me,” he said. “(I’ll) go back to the Pentagon all fired up, ready to make sure you have the right incentives and policies to do what you do.”

## Safety Tip

To help stop the spread of germs, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Put your used tissue in the waste basket and immediately wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Practicing healthy habits will help you beat many common ailments during the flu season and all year long.

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# MPs Hone Skills



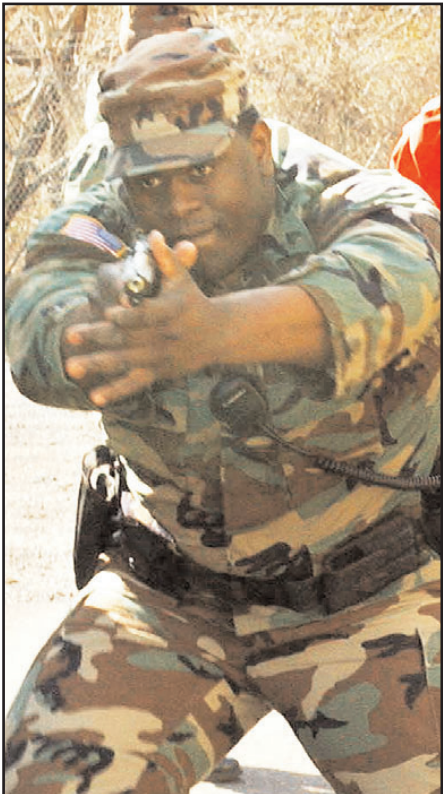
*Soldiers from the 233rd Military Police Detachment trained with the Army Criminal Investigation Division and Hampton police officers to learn investigative techniques and civilian law enforcement tactics. Photo above: Spc. Keith Woefel opens a car trunk after a simulated felony car stop as Spc. James Pruitt trains a gun in the direction of the trunk in case someone emerges violently at the Hampton Police Department simulation/gun range on Feb. 10.*



*Sgt. Justin Lamb, left, frisks an unidentified HPD officer during a simulated stop of a compliant citizen.*



*Photo above left: Spc. James Van Horn prepares to photograph crime scene evidence, i.e., an ATM receipt and soda bottle handled by a “suspect” during training with CID officers at the MP headquarters on Feb. 8. Photo center: Spc. Michael Knight, left, practices bringing down a non-compliant “criminal,” Sgt. Steven Worthley, at the HPD gym on Feb. 9. Photo right: Sgt. Anthony Brown enters a building simulator to clear it of dangerous persons on Feb. 10. Soldiers used loaded paint-ball guns to shoot targets that represented threats to law enforcers.*



Photos by Patricia Radcliffe

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# MP Roll Call

## Post PMO stresses proper flag call courtesies

What do you do when you hear Reveille or Retreat?

The answer to that question is fairly obvious for most members of the military community. But it's also obvious that there are some who, based on their actions, do not know the proper protocol that should be observed when the flag is being raised or lowered on post, or they are flat-out ignoring the rules. The PMO has also been asked what time flag calls are conducted each day and who makes that decision.

Let's review:  
The Garrison Commander sets

the times for both Reveille and Retreat. Reveille is played at 6 a.m., and Retreat is played at 5 p.m. Both flag calls are performed daily, rain or shine.

On most military installations, the military police conduct flag call. At Fort Monroe, the duties include firing the cannon just prior to the raising and lowering of the flag. The MPs are also responsible for the implementation of protocol to ensure all military personnel on the installation render proper customs and courtesies during flag call.

According to AR 600-25 (Custom

and Courtesies), Appendix C, Paragraph 2: "When ceremonies (excluding military funerals) are conducted, moving vehicles will be brought to a halt. Military passengers and drivers will dismount and render the appropriate courtesy. When riding in buses and trucks, only the senior occupant will dismount and render appropriate courtesy. Civilian personnel on Fort Monroe during the playing of these two flag calls are not required to render courtesies but it is highly recommended.

So, if during these two times you

see military police or DA civilian police stopping vehicles, it is so they can make sure personnel are rendering proper courtesy to the raising and lowering of the flag.

*(MP Roll Call provides a link between the Provost Marshal Office and the Fort Monroe community regarding law enforcement operations, services and crime statistics, and how operations and services combine with other initiatives to keep the community safe daily. Call 788-2627 if you have any comments or concerns that need to be addressed.)*

### Monroe picks top Soldier

#### Soldier of the Quarter



**Name:** Spc. Kay Royer  
**Job/Place of Duty:** Administrative Clerk, Post Command Sergeant Major's Office.  
**Hometown:** Itassi, Dominica  
**Years in Service:** 3  
**How long stationed at Fort Monroe:** 22 months.  
**About winning:** Hard work pays off! This was a great birthday gift.

### MEDAL

Continued from Page 2

their hands as if they were surrendering. Sowers and his men moved to within 100 meters of the enemy when they jumped back into their trenches and opened fire on the Americans, but Stowers crawled forward to the machine gun nest that was taking out his men. He is buried in an American military cemetery in France

Stower's citation goes on to read: "While crawling forward and urging his men to continue the attack on a second trench line, he was gravely wounded by machine gun fire ... he pressed forward, urging on the members of his squad, until he died."

The Medal of Honor did not come easily for Stowers who was recommended by his commander for the award. Somehow the paperwork was misplaced and did not resurface for nearly 70 years when President George Bush presented the Stowers' family with the corporal's Medal of Honor on April 24, 1991.

These are just a few examples of the brave African-Americans who not only served their country, but also received the nation's highest honor for their bravery.

They are our heroes.

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Chocolate Chip Cookie Day is March 3 at the Fort Monroe Frame and Craft Shop. Customers will receive a 10 percent discount on custom framing and free cookies that day. Call 788-2728.

Readers Needed

The National Education Association’s “Read Across America” campaign is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around Dr. Seuss’ birthday.

Fort Monroe’s School Liaison Officer is asking for volunteers to go into the Hampton school system and read to the children on March 2. A bus will leave the bowling center parking lot at 9 a.m. and return around 11 a.m.

Volunteers can be active duty, civilian employees, spouses, retirees or reservists.

Dr. Seuss books will be provided or you can bring your favorite.

Contact Charlie French at 788-4673 or charles.french1@us.army.mil for more information.

New Blood Donor Rules

The American Red Cross recently released two new rules that increase the number of people who can donate blood.

First, anyone tatoored in a state that requires licensing for tatoo parlors does not have to wait a year before donating blood. Virginia does not require licensing; therefore, this rule would not apply to people who receive tatoos here. To find out which states require licenses, call 1-800-682-9079.

Second, anyone who traveled or lived in Europe may be able to donate with less of a wait then in previous years. This depends on several variables, including the amount of time spent on the continent, the time periods spent there and

whether the person was or was not affiliated with the U.S. military.

The ARC Web site — www.weneedblood.org — provides detailed eligibility information.

The next ARC blood drive will be held at the Community Activities Center on March 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 788-4547.

Chamber Group

The Continental Chamber Players — an ensemble of The United States Continental Army Band — will be featured at a series of concerts in the local area, with music styles ranging from classical to jazz, concertos to marches and baroque to contemporary. Upcoming concert locations include the following:

□ Bruton Parish, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

□ Williamsburg Regional Library, 515 Scotland Street, Williamsburg on March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

□ American Theatre, 125 East Mellen Street, Hampton on March 8 at 7:30 p.m.

All performances are free and open to the public. For additional information, visit the band’s Web site at www.tradoc.army.mil/band.

AER Campaign Begins

Army Emergency Relief provides crisis financial assistance to Soldiers and their families, retirees, widows or widowers and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement. Key persons from each installation organization will be available to accept dona-

tions. Fort Monroe’s goal is \$30,000. For more information, call 788-4132.

CCC Scholarships

The Casemate Community Connection is offering scholarships to high school seniors and military spouses for the 2006-2007 academic year. Scholarships are awarded based on achievement and merit and the amount of each award may vary.

Interested persons must complete an application package which can be obtained from local high schools or by writing to: CCC Scholarship Committee, 109 Lake Herrin Court, Yorktown, Va. 23693. Completed packages must be mailed to the same address and postmarked on or before April 21.

For further information or questions regarding eligibility, call 867-6817.

Docent Seminar

The Casemate Museum will hold a two-day Tour Guide Seminar here on March 14 and 15.

The seminar is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the museum, 20 Bernard Road, inside the moat. It is free and open to all persons who have an interest in history and a desire to share their knowledge with tour groups.

Guides are not required to work a minimum number of hours, according to Carol Hanson, tour guide coordinator. To register or for more information, stop by the museum’s main office or call Hanson at 788-3391.

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## Around the Army This Week

# Returning troops to get additional health screening

**WASHINGTON (Army News Service)** – Soldiers returning from deployments will now participate in a new health screening program three to six months after arriving home.

The Post Deployment Health Reassessment program, or PDHRA, is designed to identify deployment-related health concerns that persist or problems Soldiers notice after coming home.

Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis Harvey and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker authorized the implementation of this program Jan. 23 for all active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers who have returned from deployment.

The Army program is part of the Department of Defense's force health protection program and aims to extend the range of care for Soldiers' deployment-related physical and mental health concerns, officials said.

The PDHRA provides education, screening, assessment and access to care for a wide variety of questions and concerns that Soldiers may have about their health after a deployment, officials said.

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley explained the health reassessment this way: "When our units return from operations around the world, their equipment is rechecked and reset. We see this health screening as an expansion of the process that looks at resetting the fighting force – resetting and maintaining the wellness and health of Soldiers."

Over the past few years defense officials said they learned that Soldiers' deployment

health concerns may not be noticed immediately after deployment. After Soldiers get back home and settle into their life and work, they may notice things are not quite right. They may not know the best place to find out what is wrong or what to do about it, said officials.

Every Soldier who returns from a deployment will still immediately go through what is called a Post Deployment Health Assessment.

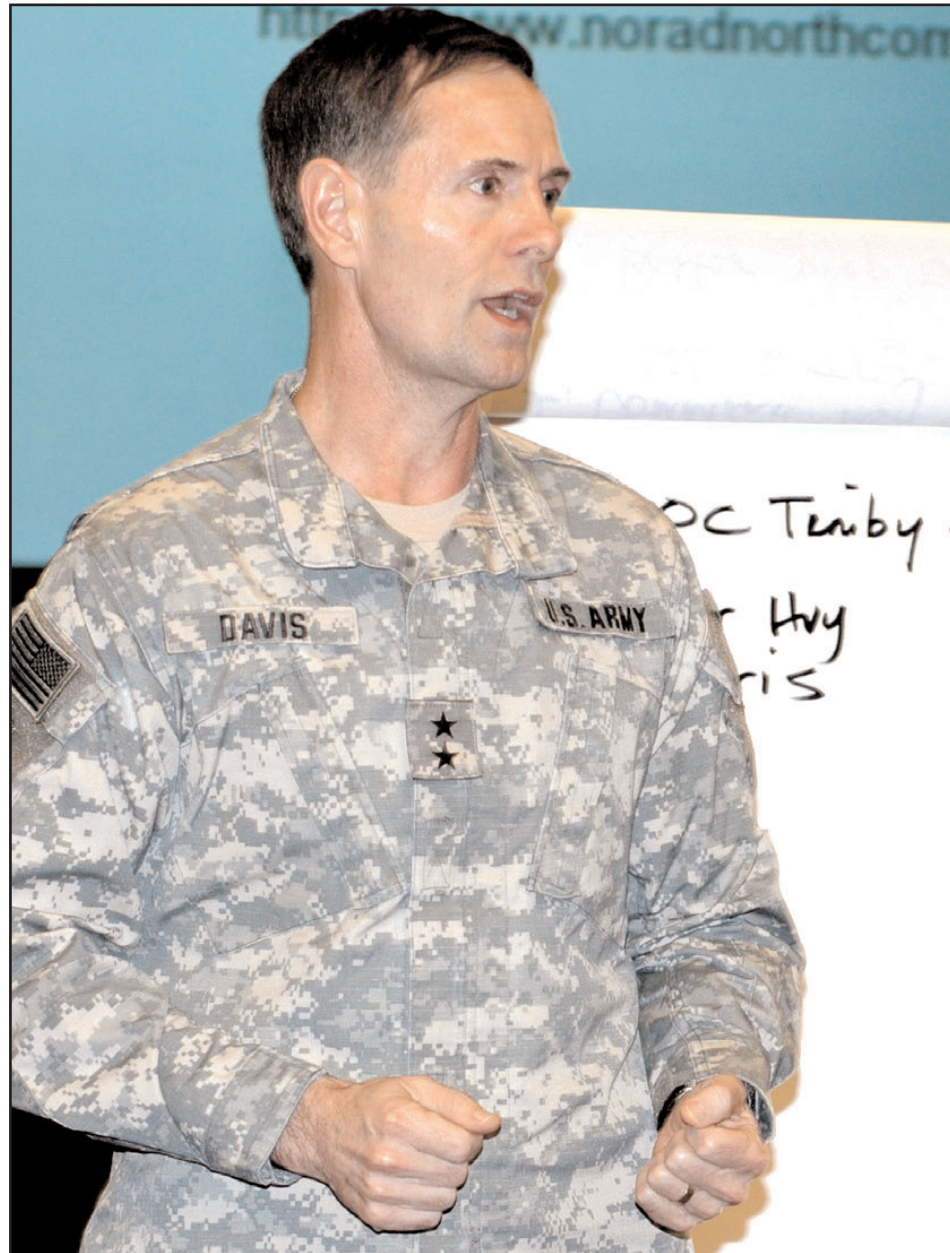
The PDHA includes an educational program for Soldiers called a medical threat debriefing, completion of a series of questions about their health and experiences during deployment, and a visit with a healthcare professional. That part is very similar to what Soldiers can expect three to six months later with the reassessment, officials said.

Soldiers may have felt differently then about their health than they do now and this is where the reassessment comes into play, Kiley said.

"It's important to remember that this is an overall health reassessment," Kiley said, "not just a mental health reassessment. Many of these Soldiers have been working very hard in combat operations throughout the world. They come back, get some time to rest and recover, and then they begin to realize that some of the things – backaches or skin rashes, for example – have not gone away.

"This screening process gives them an opportunity to come back to us, and for us to provide them the follow-on health care they need."

For more information, visit <https://fhpd.osd.mil/pdhrainfo/index.jsp>.



**Maj. Gen. Bruce Davis, commander of JTF-CS, makes closing remarks during the U.S. Northern Command CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force Commander's Conference held Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 at Fort Monroe, Va. More than 100 people representing military and non-governmental agencies attended the conference.**



**Photo above left: Maj. Joe Wyszynski, Task Force Response commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., downloads his notes in preparation for a small group response presentation during the commander's conference. Photo above right: Lt. Col. Timothy McKernan, Task Force Support commander and deputy commanding officer of the 43rd Area Support Group, Fort Carson, Colo., facilitates a discussion about lessons learned from Katrina. Photo left: Army Maj. Scott H. Bailey, JTF-CS Battle Captain, Maj. Mary J. Bradley, JTF-CS Judge Advocate and Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey W. Timby, JTF-CS Command Surgeon, observe Navy Cmdr. Frank J. Dowd, JTF-CS J33 current operations division chief, as he reviews a scenario for a small group military exercise.**



# JTFCS forum focuses on disaster response

During the early morning on the last day of January, Don Keeling, a community relations specialist at the Joint Task Force Civil Support, Fort Monroe, began gathering internet news articles for his daily media update.

Nothing seemed out of the ordinary: the impending pandemic flu crisis; terrorist threats from al-Qaeda; and a story or two about chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) issues — the kind of everyday fodder he could talk about endlessly.

Moments later, Keeling received an "all-hands," urgent e-mail from JTF-CS deputy operations officer Kenneth Lucas, pertaining to potential weather problems.

"Per facilities and security, the north doors to 265 have been secured until further notice," it read. "Weather has caused delays in their operation. Also, when exiting all doors, please take the extra second to ensure (they) are closing properly behind you; the windy conditions are pushing the doors outward."

The persistent rain and maximum sustained winds of 45-mph that day were far short of hurricane strength but still served as a vivid reminder for more than 100 service members and civilians who gathered at the U.S. Northern Command CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force Commander's Conference.

On the first day of the conference, when the discussion of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast came up, Army Maj. Joseph Wyszynski, immediately flashed back to his experience. Wyszynski, Task Force Response Commander for the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., remembers deploying with his unit within a short period of time to the devastated region

in support of Hurricane Katrina relief. Wyszynski said the rapid response left little time to prepare for deployment.

"We experienced a delay in deployment assets," said Wyszynski, who spoke about his experience during the "Katrina Lessons Learned" portion of the conference. "Getting mission flow to the ground was longer because of limited capability in contrast to Hurricane Rita."

The 3-day symposium, held January 31 through February 2, brought enlisted and commissioned service members and civilians to Fort Monroe.

Army Maj. Diron Cruz, JTF-CS Lead Planner for the conference, said the military and non-governmental agencies converged with broad consensus that good communication has a positive impact and can accelerate the nation's response to national disasters.

"The military and nongovernmental organizations shared the difficulties they experienced in response to natural disasters and how to work together to improve future response and how to overcome these difficulties," Cruz said.

As one of the active panelists, U.S. Army Reserve Col. Steven Byers, commander, Task Force Medical, and deputy commander of the 330th Medical Brigade from Fort. Sheridan, Ill., cited the cross-border response to Hurricane Katrina as an example of a learning experience for military units toward cooperating with one another. Byers noted the importance of a common language in order to accomplish a mission.

"It is an opportunity as a task force commander to meet, develop some camaraderie and partnerships working with the units that are assigned to the CCMRF and specifically task

force medical," Byers said. "There's nothing that can actually beat eye-to-eye contact and dialogue and discussion regarding capabilities of the units within the task force."

Participants included planners, a support and medical group from the 82nd Airborne Division, and representatives from the 43rd Area Support Group and 330th Medical Brigade. Each of the units presented and shared with the audience lessons learned, their challenges and their successes when they were deployed to Katrina and, in some cases, Rita.

In some instances, support, response and medical units were divided into small groups. They were given a scenario of a fictitious nuclear disaster to improve U.S. readiness if such an event were to occur.

According to Cruz, the scenario was developed to put participants in the most realistic situations as possible, dealing with preparation, recovery, decontamination processing and transport of hundreds of human remains.

"We will have completed routine supply support of personal protective equipment to Task Force Response and the lead federal agency and are postured to provide, additional split-based logistical support as required," said Army Lt. Col. Timothy McKernan, commander of Task Force Support and deputy commanding officer of the 43rd Area Support Group, Fort Carson, Colo. "We will utilize every transport asset available in order to distribute critical supplies to the ongoing civilian evacuation operations

When asked if the goals of the CCMRF were met, Wyszynski said it was worth attending. "I think it was effective because we were able to meet with our subordinate units, exchange our

capabilities and limitations and work toward a common goal and exercise the military decision making process for one or two specific missions," Wyszynski said.

JTF-CS directorates planned the event as a way to demonstrate to the military and civilian community that JTF-CS has the CBRNE response expertise and resources to provide homeland security services, Cruz said. Lessons learned from the conference will be implemented to support the mission of JTF-CS, he added. It's an excellent opportunity to develop relationships with participants.

"JTF-CS is now more familiar with the unit that we'll be commanding and controlling with if we ever go down range," Cruz said. "If we do, at least we know who these folks are, how they think, what their military mindset is, what their capabilities are as a unit and we're basically feeling comfortable with each other."

Established in October 1999, JTF-CS was created to "save lives, prevent injury and provide temporary critical life support" during CBRNE situations in the U.S. and its territories.

JTF-CS Commanding General Maj. Gen. Bruce Davis, speaking at the closing ceremony of the conference, said the three-day conference will have "positive and long-reaching impacts" because it positioned JTF-CS in supporting the mission of the homeland security, and it "allowed the organization to develop friendships with counterparts" in the military, federal, state and local level.

*Editor's note: This article was contributed by the Joint Task Force Civil Support Public Affairs Office.*



Photo by Tanya Polk

## Soldier earns Guinness World Record

**Cheered on by his fellow Soldiers, Spc. Jake Truex, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, Hanau, Germany, breaks the Guinness World Record for the 5-kilometer ruck-run on Feb. 14. With a 40-pound rucksack strapped to his back, Truex attempted to break two records — the fastest mile and the fastest 5,000 meters. Although falling just nine seconds shy of the mile record, which stands at 5 minutes, 35 seconds, the 178-pound Soldier beat the 5K record by nearly 3 minutes, coming in at 22:20. Truex began training for the record-setting event in November.**



# Sports & Health

*Got any sports results?  
Need to advertise an upcoming event?*  
Give us a call at 788-3208 or e-mail [casemate@monroe.army.mil](mailto:casemate@monroe.army.mil).

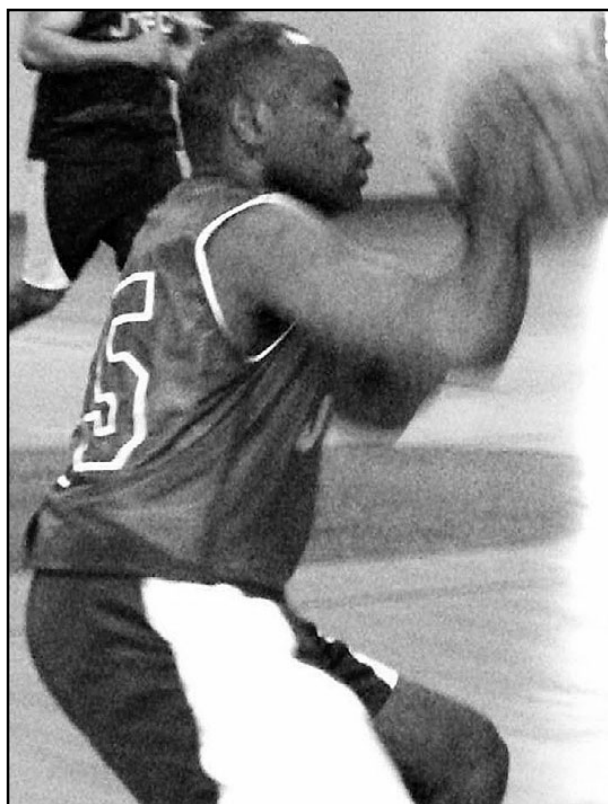


Photo by E. David Vida

**Alexander Williams of the JTF-CS team takes aim against A2CAC2 in Monday's intramural basketball game at the CAC.**

## A2CAC2 celebrates win against JTF-CS

**BY E. DAVID VIDA**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

A2CAC2 won 39-35 over JTF-CS in an intramural basketball game played at the Community Activities Center on Monday.

The top scoring players from the A2CAC2 team were Robert Weaver with 15 points, Jason Smith and Dave Merrell with eight points and Larry Parsons with six points.

Weaver's slam-dunk in the first period was a highlighting moment for the A2CAC2 team and set the terms early in the game that this team should not be reckoned with.

JTF-CS played a good

defense, but it wasn't enough to keep A2CAC2 attack at bay. The point leaders on the JTF-CS squad were Todd Harrison with 15 points, and Gary Coles and Alexander Williams with six points apiece.

The teams played close together, point-wise, toward the end of the game, but A2CAC2 managed to break off with four points and take home a win.

JTF-CS is scheduled to play the Fire Department on Wednesday and A2CAC2 is scheduled to play the Rim Rattlers on Feb. 27. Both games will be at the CAC and both start at 12:30 p.m.

## Soccer Excitement

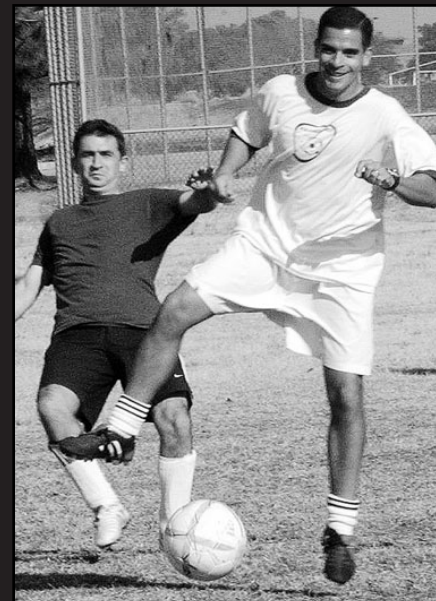


Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Robert Ruck manages to get the best of Eken Surru during a recent pickup soccer game on the soccer field near the Post Exchange.**

## Sports Roundup

### Softball Tryouts

Tryouts for the post men's softball team will be held Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at DeRussy Field on Fenwick Road.

Teams will compete in the Hampton City league and several upper-level tournaments. Anyone with the skills to compete, should come on out. There will be a Hampton Parks and Recreation signup roster located at the front desk of the Fitness Center.

For more information contact the sports office at 788-2783.

### Tee Up for Veterans

The Veterans Affairs Employees Association is sponsoring a golf fundraiser to support the 500-plus veterans nationwide who will compete in the 2006 National Veterans Golden Age Games

The games will be hosted by the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Hampton during May.

The golf tournament will be held at the Woodlands Golf Course, Hampton, on April 1. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the shotgun start will be at 7:30 a.m. It will be a four-person best ball format, captain's choice. The entry fee is \$55 per person, which covers green fees, a cart and lunch. The deadline for entry is March 24.

Mulligans will be sold the day of the tournament at \$2.50 each or five for \$10 and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, the longest drive and the closest to the pin.

For more information call 722-9961, ext. 2571.

### Stepping into Spring

A new post walking group, Step into Spring Walking Club, will meet at the Fitness Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m., beginning April 3. The guided walks will be two miles long and participants are encouraged

to walk at their own pace. Prizes will be awarded to participants who have logged at least 16 miles on Fitlinxx at the end of the program. For more information, call 788-4771.

### Over 40 Softball League

There will be an Over-40 Intramural Softball League meeting on March 28 at the Fitness Center at 6:30 p.m. The softball season begins May 5 and ASA rules apply for all games. The B and C class games will be played Friday nights.

The cost is \$350 per team. For more information, visit [www.monroemwr.com](http://www.monroemwr.com), call 788-2783 or email [john.tutson@monroe.army.mil](mailto:john.tutson@monroe.army.mil). The meeting is open to the public.

### Nite Hoops

Fort Monroe Youth Sports will host Nite Hoops for middle and high school youths on April 7 from 8 to 11 p.m. at Community Activities Center. It is free to all Child and Youth Services members and their guests. There is a \$3 cost for pizza.

For more information, call Mike Jones at 788-3957 or 788-2430.

### Jr. Olympics Competition

Fort Monroe Child and Youth Services will offer the Jr. Olympic Skills Competition for children ages 8 to 13. The competition is free. Events include the following.

**Basketball** - March 4, at noon in the Community Activities Center gym

**Soccer** - April 8, at 1 p.m. at the CAC soccer field

**Tennis** - April 13 at 4:15 p.m. at the tennis courts near the Bay Breeze Community Center

**Track and field** - May 6 at 1 p.m. at the CAC soccer field

Call youth services at 788-3957 for more information.

### Spring Fishing Classic

Bass Pro Shops will host the 2006 Spring Fishing Classic in Hampton from March 3 to 5.

Some of the most notable fisherman in the world will participate in the event that will feature seminars, demonstrations, newly-released fishing gear and technology. Kid's activities, are also planned.

For more information about the classic, including event and exhibit details, visit [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com) or call 262-5200.

### VCE Workshop for Women

A half-day workshop emphasizing women's wellness issues, particularly nutrition and healthy eating habits, will be held March 4 at the Midtown Community Center in Newport News from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The workshop will also include a discussion on methods to improve diet and exercise. The cost is \$10 and the registration deadline is Feb. 24.

Call the Virginia Cooperative Extension office at 591-4838 for registration materials.

### Volunteers Needed

The Virginia Beach Bike Classic will be held May 5 to 7 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach.

As many as 100 to 150 volunteers are needed each day to operate registration, ticket sales, trash collection, a kid's corner, beer ticket sales and beer pumping (must be 21 years old).

Shifts will last about four to six hours during the following times:

**May 5** - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**May 6** - 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**May 7** - 8 am -8 pm

Volunteers will be asked to attend a one-hour training session on April 30. All volunteers working at least one full shift will receive a Bike Classic T-shirt and free admission to the concert of their choice. E-mail [usohrvolunteer@cox.net](mailto:usohrvolunteer@cox.net).



# NEWS CLIPS

Continued from Page 9

## Playground Survey

During the Army Family Action Planning Conference, members of the Fort Monroe community recommended construction of a multi-age playground near the Community Activities Center on post. This one would replace the one that was removed when the Soldier and Family Support Center was constructed.

Youth Services personnel are conducting a survey to obtain feedback about this issue. To participate in the survey, go to [www.monroemwr.com/cysplay.pdf](http://www.monroemwr.com/cysplay.pdf). Print out and complete the survey form and fax it to Beth Sigler at 788-3786. Feedback from concerned personnel will play a role in the outcome of this project.

## Self-Storage Unit Availability

Outdoor Recreation is offering large and small self-storage units on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no waiting list, but there are only a few left. The units are accessible 24 hours a day. For cost and other information, call Tracey Wigfall at 788-2785 during regular business hours – Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## March EOM

Nominations are being accepted for the March Employee of the Month for the garrison. Contact the EOM administrator, Paulette Pickering, for an electronic nomination form and further information at 788-2468 or [paulette.pickering@us.army.mil](mailto:paulette.pickering@us.army.mil).

## AAFES Special

Furniture purchases of at least \$299 made at the Post Exchange using the Star Card between today and Feb. 23 will be interest free with no payment required for six months.

For more information, call 722-0794.



## Smart Shoppers

*Peninsula Worklink representative Lisa Taylor (left), talks about area employment opportunities with Sgt. Jason and Christine Trezza as one-year-old Camden looks on during the Consumer Information Fair held at the Soldier and Family Support Center on Feb. 7.*

Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

## Freezing Fun

*Team Fort Monroe: (l-r) Kenneth Willet, Calla Abbott, Mike Carlomany, Alan Rogers, Bridgett Johnson and Cameron Shwedo took the Polar Plunge at Virginia Beach on Feb. 4 to benefit the Special Olympics. Sponsors donated \$1,000 to have the team jump into the 40-degree waters.*



Courtesy photo

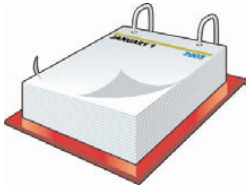
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# MoatNotes

## UPCOMING SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Fridays at the Fort . . . . Today! 5 p.m. | AAHM Observance . . . . . Feb. 22  
Sunday Brunch with Roberto . Feb. 19 | Post Run . . . . . Feb. 28  
Presidents Day Bowling . . . . Feb. 20 | AER Campaign Kickoff . . . . March 1  
For more on these and other upcoming events, see listings below or other stories and briefs in this issue.



### Feb. 17

#### Fridays at the Fort

The Bay Breeze Community Center invites you to bring your family and friends to the Fridays at the Fort celebration today at 5 p.m. The weekly event features D.J. music and karaoke by L. F. Edwards and a wide assortment of food and beverages.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Visitors from the local community are reminded that a valid picture-ID is required for anyone 16 years of age or older to gain access to the installation. For more information, call 788-2406.

#### Constant Entertainment

From basketball legends to pop music mega-stars, the Constant Convocation Center, ODU campus, Norfolk, is offering an entertainment lineup that's practically non-stop throughout March and April.

Tickets are on sale now for events like the Harlem Globetrotters' "Unstoppable" World Tour, scheduled for March 3 at 7 p.m., and March 4 at 1 p.m. These comical kings of the basketball court carry on a tradition that began in 1927. The team is known the world over for its family friendly games that are chock full of trick shots and slapstick routines. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$87.

Seats are also available now for the March 10 concert featuring nine-time Grammy winner Sheryl Crow. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Crow has amassed numerous hit singles like "All I Wanna Do" (1994), and "If It Makes You Happy" (1996). In 2003, her remake of the Cat Stevens' hit "The First Cut is the Deepest" garnered further acclaim. Tickets for that show range from \$29.50 to \$49.50.

Other events include the American Cheer Express National Cheer and Dance Competition, set for April 1 and 2; and "Clifford the Big Red Dog Live!" returns to the Constant Center for five performances beginning April 6 at 10:30 a.m. For more information about these events and online seat reservations, visit [www.constantcenter.com](http://www.constantcenter.com).

### Feb. 18

#### Classic Matinee

Travel back to the thrilling days of matinee movies and "larger than life" cowboys during the Williamsburg Library Theatre's classic western film program, set for Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The afternoon will recreate the

## Red Rover, Red Rover ...



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Jaida Hull, 4, center, tries to break through the opposing team's line during a game of "Red Rover" on Feb. 7 at the Community Activities Center. Also pictured are Katharine Lewis, 5, and Dimitri Harrell, 4.**

weekly matinee-movie-going experience of the 1940s and '50s when several short films, cartoons and an episode from a serial were shown in movie palaces across the U.S. Saturday's feature film presents Roy Rogers in "The Bells of Coronado." It will be followed by "The Big Sombrero," starring Gene Autry. The serial film is "Zorro's Black Whip."

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 259-4070.

#### 'Nuevo Tango'

Still flying high after his sensational win at the 2005 Latin Grammy Awards (best Tango album), world famous pianist, composer and arranger Pablo Ziegler bring his explosive show to the stage of the American Theatre, Hampton, Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets for "Nuevo Tango" are \$25 and \$30. To reserve seats by phone, call 722-2787.

#### Astronaut Visit

The Virginia Air and Space Center, Hampton, will celebrate Black History Month with a special visit by NASA astronaut Guy Bluford,

the first African-American to fly in space, Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bluford spent 15 years with NASA. In addition to his historic flight in 1983, he also flew on a Spacelab flight in 1985 and Department of Defense missions in 1991 and '92. Upon his retirement in 1993, he had logged over 688 hours in space.

This event is included with VASC's regular admission, which is \$8.75 for adults, \$7.75 for seniors and military, and \$6.75 for children ages 3-11. For more information, call 727-0900.

#### Buffalo Riders

A local equestrians group will honor the memory of the Buffalo Soldiers of the Civil War with a special reenactment Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, starting and finishing at I.C. Norcom high School, Portsmouth. The six-mile ride is open to everyone. The event, featuring the Buffalo Riders of Hampton Roads, is being held in honor of Black History Month. For more information, call 686-2313 or 286-1493.

### Feb. 19

#### 'Inner Rhythm'

An infectious blend of African, Latin, swing and R&B rhythms by percussionist/composer Robert Jospe and his band "Inner Rhythm" will delight the audience at Mary T. Christian Auditorium, TNCC campus, Hampton, Sunday at 3 p.m.

"Inner Rhythm" features some of Virginia's finest jazz musicians. Much of the group's repertoire is comprised of original compositions that trace their roots to Afro-Cuban and contemporary styles, as well as jazz classics.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. For more information or to make reservations by phone, call 825-2779.

#### 'Crunch Time'

One of the world's last giant turtles will be among the animals on display during the "Reptiles, Bizarre and Beautiful" weekend that continues through Monday at the Virginia Living Museum, Newport News.

"Crunch" — a 165-pound, 150-year-old alligator snapping turtle — has been featured on CNN and other news shows. The giant turtle is on the endangered species list.

The museum's reptile weekend will also include various amphibians and all three venomous snakes found in Virginia: the rattlesnake, cottonmouth and copperhead. The exhibit introduces the public to the fascinating aspects of reptiles.

The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the museum and the reptile exhibit is \$13 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, and free for tots 2 and under. For more information, call 595-1900.

### AT THE MOVIES

#### Showing at the Fort Eustis Theater

- Friday, Feb. 17**  
7 p.m. — Grandma's Boy (R)
- Saturday, Feb. 18**  
2 p.m. — Casanova (R)  
7 p.m. — Hoodwinked (PG)
- Friday, Feb. 24**  
7 p.m. — The Last Holiday (PG-13)
- Saturday, Feb. 25**  
2 p.m. — No Show  
7 p.m. — Hostel (R)
- Friday, March 3**  
7 p.m. — Glory Road (PG)

\*The Langley Air Force Base movie theater is closed for renovations.

Adults \$2, children 6-12 years old \$1.50 and children under 6 are free. If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50. For more information, call 766-1237.



**Feb. 21****‘Trockadero’ Ballet**

The American Theatre, Hampton, presents a hilarious look at the highbrow world of classical dance during the upcoming performance of “Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo,” on Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Combining a loving knowledge of dance with a wicked comedic sensibility, the Trockaderos “parody” great classical ballets and the choreography of legends like Isadora Duncan and Martha Graham. The show leaps to life as professional male dancers demonstrate their inept version of toe lifts, poses and plunges.

Tickets for the performance are \$40. To make reservations by phone, call 722-2787.

**Feb. 23****Winter Jam 2006**

America’s most popular Christian rock bands are coming to the Constant Convocation Center, ODU campus, Norfolk, for Winter Jam 2006, Thursday, starting at 7 p.m.

Concert promoters are promising “electrifying and uplifting” performances by the Newsboys, tobyMAC, ZOEGirl, Hawk Nelson and Krystal Meyers. Winter Jam’s contemporary music and charged atmosphere are perfect for younger generations who want to share in the power of the Lord.

Winter Jam remains one of the most affordable concerts around. A \$10 donation will be collected upon entrance, and a love offering will be accepted during the show. For more information, call 683-4444.

**‘The Coats’**

Willett Hall, Portsmouth, presents one of the most recognized and requested ensembles in the acappella world on Thursday at 8 p.m.

“The Coats” recorded the opening music for NBC’s hit comedy “Frasier” and segments of the Jenny Jones Show. They’ve performed with chart-topping groups like the Beach Boys, and their gigs include a performance for the President and Vice-President of the United States. If you’ve never heard their music, you won’t want to miss this enthralling vocal experience.

All tickets are \$27.50. For reservations, call Ticketmaster at 671-8100 or the Willett Hall Box Office at 393-5144.

**‘HMS Pinafore’**

Experience fun, frivolity and fortune aboard the “HMS Pinafore” during its one-evening performance at the Ferguson Center for the Arts, CNU campus, Newport News, on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The Carl Rosa Opera, Britain’s most well established opera company, invites you to take part in this

hilarious musical tale of love, hypocrisy and mistaken identities. “HMS Pinafore” is a delight for audiences young and old.

Tickets range from \$35 to \$45. For reservations, call Ticketmaster at 671-8100. For a listing of upcoming Ferguson Center events, visit [www.fergusoncenter.cnu.org](http://www.fergusoncenter.cnu.org).

**Quilt Festival**

The 2006 Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival is scheduled for Feb. 23 through 26 at the new Hampton Roads Convention Center (Mercury Boulevard).

Celebrating its 17th year, the festival offers a compilation of quilting, fiber arts and wearable crafts, all under one roof. It’s the perfect place for quilting enthusiasts and textile artists to meet, shop, learn and explore their art. Pre-registration is required for festival workshops. For more information, visit [www.quiltfest.com](http://www.quiltfest.com).

**Feb. 24****Mardi Gras**

New-Orleans-style food, entertainment and costumes will highlight the upcoming Mardi Gras celebration at the Fort Eustis Club on Feb. 24 from 5 p.m. to midnight.

The evening will be filled with prize giveaways. The first 200 participants who purchase a beverage will receive a free hurricane glass. An individual costume contest offers prizes of \$100 for first place and \$50 for second. A top prize of \$500 in unit funds is up for grabs during the group float-building contest.

Participants can also try their luck at the Black Jack, Texas Holdem’, and standard poker tables. The games will be played with “funny dollars.” The exchange rate is 10 funny dollars for one real dollar. The event will also feature “down-south” music by the Louisiana Mudbugs and the Black, White and Blues Band.

Admission is \$6.95 per person.

Tickets are on sale now at all Fort Eustis MWR activities. For more information, call 878-4430.

**‘FREEdom Days’**

In a show of support for U.S. troops and their families, the Virginia Air and Space Center is hosting “FREEdom Days” — a series of military appreciation days when the facility gives away fun for free!

The next celebration honors the Navy. From Feb. 24 through March 5, active duty military, spouses and dependents from all branches of service will receive free admission, motion simulator and carousel rides and activities for the kids. Discounts will also be offered for IMAX admission and the Imagination Station — One Stop Science Shop. The next celebration — Army/Marine Corps Days — is set for March 18 through 26.

A military ID card is required for verification of service affiliation. For more information, call 727-0900.

**Feb. 25****19th Century Crafts**

Endview Plantation, Newport News, will host a living history program focusing on the arts and crafts of the 19th century on Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to demonstrations of needlework and quilting, living historians will discuss their skills and the significance of similar crafts two centuries ago.

Admission to Endview is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for visitors age 7 to 18. For more information, call 887-1862.

**‘The Gurleys’**

An evening of “deep, honest musical communication” will be offered at the Williamsburg Library Theatre Feb. 25 starting at 7:30 p.m. Appearing in concert are Bill, Pam and Macon Gurley, a folk and bluegrass trio whose singing style is described as “clean and polished,

yet rustic and natural.” Tickets for the performance are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students with ID and \$7 for ages 16 and under. To reserve seats by phone, call 259-4070.

**‘Planting the Seed’**

It’s time to think about spring flowers before April’s showers begin, according to the organizers of a special workshop planned for Feb. 25 at Courthouse Galleries Museum, Olde Towne Portsmouth.

The five-hour session, titled “Planting the Seed,” begins at 10:30 a.m. It will be led by members of the Portsmouth Master Gardener Association. Each participant will receive a gardening starter kit.

The cost of the class is \$20 (\$15 for museum members). The fee includes all materials and admission to the museum on the day of the class. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 393-8543.

**Feb. 26****Open House**

Peninsula Catholic High School, Newport News, will host an open house for prospective students and parents on Feb. 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. The program will provide information about curriculum offerings and student life. For additional information, call 596-7247, ext. 22.

**‘Of Mice and Men’**

A preview performance of the Virginia Stage Company’s first 2006 production — the John Steinbeck classic “Of Mice and Men” — is scheduled for 7 p.m., Feb. 26, at Wells Theatre, Norfolk.

Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, the play focuses on two drifters who discover their dreams, like “the best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men,” aren’t easily achieved.

Performances continue Feb. 28 through March 19. Ticket prices vary. For more information, visit [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com).

# WILD WILD WEST

## CHILI COOKOFF



Feb. 24, 7-11 p.m.

Bay Breeze  
Community Center

Advance tickets \$8 (E-1 to E-5 pay \$5). At the door - \$10.

This event is open to the public. For more information, call 224-8820.

Prizes for best chili  
and best presentation;  
Food, drinks and a live  
auction!





# Williamsburg park honors nation’s leaders

**BY LT. COL. GUS SCHALKHAM**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It looks a tad out of place in its remote, heavily wooded setting just a few hundred yards off the Colonial Parkway near Williamsburg.

There are no government buildings, museums, souvenir stands or any of the other trappings you might expect to accompany a major “monument.”

But the location of Presidents Park actually works to its advantage ... serenity and the lack of distractions permit deep reflection. It’s the sort of place where you “feel” history.

Just as its name implies, Presidents Park pays tribute to our nation’s leaders — from George Washington to George Herbert Walker Bush. The park opened March 1, 2004.

“The mission of (the park) is to promote a better understanding of the American presidency, foster an appreciation for our presidents as individuals, encourage civic responsibility and involvement, and provide educational opportunities of the highest standards,” reads the mission statement found on the park’s Web site, [www.presidentspark.org](http://www.presidentspark.org).

Evenly dispersed across the park’s 10 acres are 43 statues ranging from 16 to 18 feet tall. The detail, in relation to the size of these enormous “busts,” is exquisite.

The statues are the creation of distinguished artist, David Adickes. His artwork and sculptures can be found in at least 10 major art muse-

ums in the United States. He has even created a 76-foot statue of Sam Houston, who defeated Mexican General Santa Anna in Texas’ fight for independence. Today the statue “greet” guests of the Fine Arts Museum in Jackson, Miss.

Adickes spent five years sculpting the busts at Presidents Park. He used old photographs and drawing to create most of the facial details, according to Linda Riddle, the park’s director of research and development. President Bush actually posed for his likeness.

Presidents Park is a self-guided tour. As you proceed from one president to the next, you will have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the individuals who have held the highest elected office in our country. This is possible by the informational displays provided at each presidential site.

Displays contain biographical information on each person, as well as what special accomplishments or events took place during their presidency. Interesting facts, including quotes by these famous leaders, are also provided.

Throughout the park are additional displays called “Defining Moments in History.” Fourteen events in our nation’s young history are presented beginning with the American Revolution and continuing through the terrorist attack of 9/11.

You want to allow yourself a minimum of one hour to tour the grounds or more if you plan to read each of the historical displays.

The park also offers group educational pro-

grams. Teachers are encouraged to bring their classes to the site where educational materials can be provided. This can be arranged by calling 259-1121.

Inside the museum center is a gift shop, classrooms, observation deck, meeting and banquet rooms, and a café with an outdoor patio.

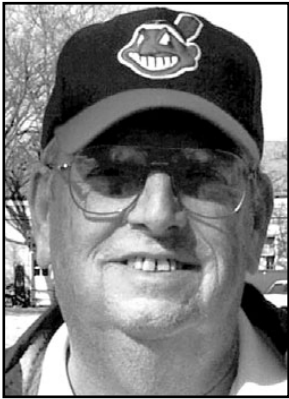
Ticket prices are \$9.75 for adults, \$8.75 for military and seniors (55+), and \$6.50 for children ages 6 to 17. The park is open throughout the year. The current hours of operations are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily. Between April and August, the park’s hours are extended to 8 p.m.

You can go to their Web site to learn more about other opportunities they provide, such as hosting special groups for after-hour tour/dinner parties, afternoon teas or an evening tour with dessert included.

President’s Park is just off I-64 exit 242B. As soon as you turn off the ramp onto VA-199 West, get into the left lane. You will travel just a half a mile before you come to Water Country Parkway where you’ll turn left. The park is less than a quarter of a mile on your left.

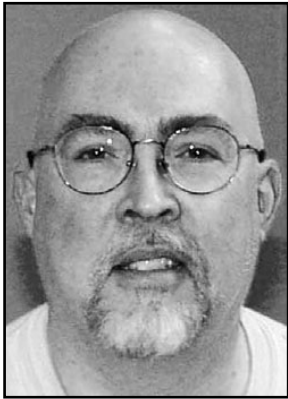
Special ceremonies and entertainment is planned throughout Monday’s holiday observance. Living historians will portray Martha Washington and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The park’s fife and drum corps will perform around 2 p.m. The park is also offering special admission — all children accompanying a paying adult get in for free.

## Who was the greatest president and why?



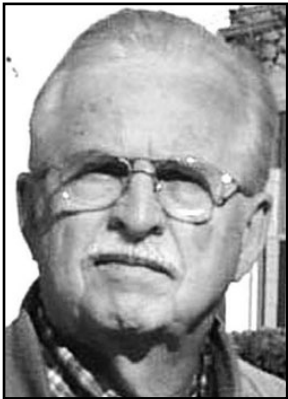
**Lloyd Washer**  
*Retired Chief Warrant Officer*

“Abraham Lincoln, because he did two things that are unequalled for this country. He ended slavery and the Civil War, and he established the Transcontinental Railroad — not many people know that.”



**Jim Schultz**  
*Civilian Contractor*

“Franklin Delano Roosevelt, because he managed to bring the U.S. out of the Great Depression. He was also a savvy war time president. He was the only president in U.S. history to serve four terms in office.”



**Milton Berube**  
*Visting from Williamsburg*

“George Washington, because he had the most leveling influence on our country and the most foresight; particularly at the beginning when it was very, very tenuous.”



**Maj. Jacqueline Davis**  
*Cadet Command*

“Abraham Lincoln because he ended slavery and he had the foresight to go against the common ideology and customs of the time.”



**Robin Sisemore**  
*PX Dry Cleaners*

“Ronald Reagan, because I think he did a lot for the military, and I feel that he was the most honest out of all the presidents.”



**Eugene Gasque**  
*Roads and Grounds Griffin Services*

“Abraham Lincoln because he freed the slaves.”